

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A variant of the *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID ~~NO:2~~ NO:3, wherein the amino acid sequence of said variant consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, except for substitutions of Met at position ~~492~~ 178, Val at position ~~494~~ 180, and Gly at position ~~249~~ 205 of SEQ ID ~~NO:2~~ NO:3, and wherein said variant has increased polyesterase activity, as compared to the *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID ~~NO:2~~ NO:3.

Claims 2-38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (currently amended): A variant of the *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID ~~NO:2~~ NO:3, wherein said variant consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, except for a substitution of Ile or Asn at position ~~494~~ 180 of SEQ ID ~~NO:2~~ NO:3, and wherein said variant has increased polyesterase activity and/or enhanced thermostability, as compared to the *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID ~~NO:2~~ NO:3.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim 39, wherein said substitution at position ~~494~~ 180 is Ile.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim 39, wherein said substitution at position ~~494~~ 180 is Asn.

Claims 42-44 (canceled)

Claim 45 (currently amended): A variant of the *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase

consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 ~~NO:3~~, wherein said variant consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, except for substitutions of Ala, His, Lys, Leu, Asn, Pro or Ser at position ~~494~~ 180 and Gly at position ~~249~~ 205 of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~NO:3~~, and wherein said variant has increased polyesterase activity and/or enhanced thermostability, as compared to the *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 ~~NO:3~~.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim 45, wherein said substitution at position ~~494~~ 180 is Ala.

Claim 47 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim 45, wherein said substitution at position ~~494~~ 180 is His.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim ~~45~~, wherein said substitution at position ~~494~~ 180 is Lys.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim 45, wherein said substitution at position ~~494~~ 180 is Leu.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim 45, wherein said substitution at position ~~494~~ 180 is Asn.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim 45, wherein said substitution at position ~~494~~ 180 is Pro.

Claim 52 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim 45, wherein said substitution at position ~~494~~ 180 is Ser.

Claim 53 (currently amended): A variant of the *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 ~~NO:3~~, wherein said variant consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, except for a substitution of Leu or Pro at position ~~494~~ 180 of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~NO:3~~, and wherein said variant has enhanced thermostability,

as compared to the *Pseudomonas mendocina* cutinase consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:~~2~~ NO:3.

Claim 54 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim 53, wherein said substitution at position ~~494~~ 180 is Leu.

Claim 55 (currently amended): The cutinase variant of claim 53, wherein said substitution at position ~~494~~ 180 is Pro.